

[0003] The object of the invention is ~~directed toward the objective of disclosing to provide~~ a cargo deck and a method for its assembly that ~~ensures a reduction of~~ reduces complexity, regarding construction as well as manufacture and installation in the aircraft as compared to the prior art.

[0004] This objective is achieved by the provision of a cargo deck for a cargo compartment of an aircraft with an outer skin wherein said cargo deck is adapted, in the case of a cargo deck to receive loads and in the cargo compartment of an aircraft having an outer skin to which ribs can be attached, in that the cargo deck is made up of a plurality of floor modules that are fixed within the cargo compartment and constitute the cargo deck, and at the outer skin of the aircraft or the ribs longitudinal beams are attached on which the floor modules are can be mounted.

[0005] One feature essential idea of the invention is that it no longer involves the conventional structure in which the transverse beams are each individually attached to the aircraft fuselage and then the elements that form the cargo-compartment floor are mounted on them. Instead, modules are constructed that comprise sections of the cargo deck including the associated supporting structures (transverse beams), and these modules are then attached as a whole to the longitudinal beams. The result is not only a considerably simplified construction of the cargo deck, because the modules can be (pre-)assembled outside the fuselage of the aircraft; in addition, a considerable simplification is achieved because the modules are not attached directly to the outer skin or the ribs, but rather to the longitudinal beams. That is, whereas during manufacture of the aircraft fuselage there is a degree of tolerance regarding the distances by which the ribs are separated, the longitudinal beams can be finished outside the fuselage and hence with a high degree of precision. This means that the corresponding fixation devices for fixing the modules

to the longitudinal beams can be attached accurately, so that when the modules are installed in the aircraft fuselage the entire arrangement can be fitted precisely into position.

In paragraph [0021], please amend the paragraph as follows.

[0021] ~~In the following the~~ The invention will now be described is explained in greater detail with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein.

In paragraphs [0040] and [0041], please amend the paragraph as follows.

[0040] Figs. 28 - 34 are drawings corresponding to those in Figs. 21-27, but of a second ~~another~~ embodiment of the invention, and

[0041] Figs. 35 - 41 are drawings corresponding to those in Figs. 21-27 and 28-34, but of a third ~~another~~ embodiment of the invention.

Preliminary Amendment: ABSTRACT AMENDMENTS

On page 22, please amend the paragraph as follows:

~~In~~ An aircraft cargo decks ~~are~~ is provided to receive loads stored in the cargo compartment ~~(9)~~. The aircraft comprises an outer skin ~~(12)~~ to which longitudinal beams ~~ribs~~ ~~(11)~~ are ~~attached~~ secured, preferably via ribs attached to the outer skin. To simplify the construction and the assembly of the cargo deck, it is ~~proposed that the cargo deck be composed of~~ a plurality of floor modules ~~(20)~~, which are fixed within the

cargo compartment and which are mounted on the (9) and form
~~the cargo deck. To the ribs (11) are attached longitudinal~~
~~beams (35), on which the floor modules (20) can be mounted.~~